UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/766/Add.1
2 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 126

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) (A/49/429/Add.3) submitted to it in the form of an advance draft. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee welcomes the improvement in the presentation of the document which gives a clearer linkage between the political mandate and operational activities. However, the Advisory Committee recommends that the mid-term financial review, which is essentially what the report under consideration is, should be briefer and include only such political issues and developments as are relevant to the logistical and financial aspects of the presentation. Paragraphs 57 and 58 of the report illustrate this point; while the former does not appear to have any direct financial relevance, the latter contains useful information that could facilitate understanding of resource requirements.

3. The Committee however, commends the improvement in the presentation of items such as the cost parameters and other tabular information presented in the document. The Advisory Committee also welcomes the fact that its recommendations to review the grade level and number of civilian staff (see A/49/766) have resulted in the determination that it would be possible to continue the operation with the reduction of eight posts (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-3s, 1 Field Service and 3 Security Service) and the reclassification of four P-3 posts to the P-2 level.

95-16436 (E) 070695 090695

/...

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that UNOMIG was established by Security Council resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993 for an initial period of six months. The mandate of UNOMIG has been extended by subsequent Security Council resolutions; resolution 937 (1994) of 21 July 1994 extended the mandate up to 13 January 1995, while the latest, resolution 993 (1995) of 12 May 1995 extended the mandate for an additional period up to 12 January 1996, subject to review in the event of any changes that may be made in the mandate of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peace-keeping force.

5. In its report (A/49/766), the Advisory Committee had recommended that, subject to the decision by the Security Council on the renewal of UNOMIG after 13 January 1995, requirements for UNOMIG should not exceed $1,720,034 gross per month. The General Assembly, by its resolution 49/231, decided to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed that amount; the Advisory Committee was informed that financing for the period from 14 January to 13 July 1995 was based on the authorized level.

6. The Secretary-General's report contains the cost estimate for a period of 11.6 months from 14 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 amounting to $16,115,300 gross ($15,088,700 net). As indicated in the summary of the report, this represents a decrease on a monthly basis of 19 per cent gross (19.5 per cent net) from the monthly commitment authorization provided by the General Assembly in resolution 49/231. The decrease results primarily from the reduction of eight international posts and six local posts and the decision not to deploy a helicopter. The estimate provides for a strength of 135 military observers and 136 civilian staff.

7. The document also contains the performance report for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1994, which reflects an unencumbered balance of $89,200 gross ($84,300 net) from an appropriation of $1,002,600 gross ($939,000 net). As indicated in paragraph 66 of the Secretary-General's report, the unencumbered balance results mainly from savings for such items as civilian personnel costs, rental of premises, transport operations, supplies and services and commercial freight and cartage. The Advisory Committee understands that some items such as vehicles, workshop equipment and miscellaneous supplies could not be obtained during the financial period owing to delays in the procurement process.

8. The performance report for the period from 1 July 1994 to 13 January 1995 reflects an unencumbered balance of $3,280,600 gross ($3,227,900 net) from an appropriation of $8,847,700 gross ($8,547,000 net). As indicated in paragraph 67 of the Secretary-General's report, the unencumbered balance results mainly from savings under civilian personnel costs, transport and air operations, communications and other equipment, miscellaneous services and supplies and public information activities. The Advisory Committee notes with concern that the savings were "owing either to a delay in deployment of personnel, a delay in procurement or an inability to undertake the planned activity within the mandate period."

9. The status of assessed contributions as at 30 April 1995 for the period from 24 August 1993 to 15 May 1995 is given in paragraph 62 of the report. The Advisory Committee notes that an amount of $1,501,301 is outstanding from Member States.

10. With regard to voluntary contributions, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 63 of the Secretary-General's report that a cash contribution of $681,896 has been made by the Government of Switzerland with the request that the funds be used to establish a trust fund to support the activities of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Georgia. In this connection, on inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Special Envoy is being financed from resources against unforeseen and extraordinary expenses on an "as required" basis.

11. The situation with regard to the trust fund established pursuant to Security Council resolution 937 (1994) to facilitate the implementation of UNOMIG's mandate is given in paragraph 65 of the Secretary-General's report.

12. As indicated in paragraph 72 of the report, the Secretary-General proposes to extend to UNOMIG the special arrangements with respect to article IV of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, as contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 47/210 B of 14 September 1993 related to the United Nations Protection Force. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal.

13. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 69 of the Secretary-General's report that there is an unencumbered balance of $3,714,186 gross ($3,612,298 net). The Advisory Committee recommends that these amounts be credited to Member States.

14. As mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the estimated cost of maintaining UNOMIG for 11.6 months for the period from 14 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 is projected at $16,115,300 gross ($15,088,700 net). As indicated in paragraph 73 of the Secretary-General's report, the estimate reflects reduced requirements for civilian staffing, vehicles, and a helicopter that had been requested in the prior period.

15. As indicated in paragraphs 9 and 10 of annex VI to the Secretary-General's report, provision is made for salaries of 61 international staff, taking into account a turnover factor of 10 per cent, and 75 locally recruited staff at the rates shown in annex IX to the report.

16. The Advisory Committee notes that, during the periods from 1 April to 30 June 1994 and 1 July 1994 to 13 January 1995, additional expenditure in travel and related costs was incurred for periodic travel of staff to Moscow for lack of banking facilities in the Mission area. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 5 of annex II to the Secretary-General's report that the group which travels to Moscow for banking transactions is made up of two administrative officers and two security escorts. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee notes that for the period from 1 July 1994 to 13 January 1995, additional expenditure in the amount of $31,900 was incurred for bank charges (see annex IV A, para. 20).

17. The Advisory Committee understands that arrangements are being made to use alternative facilities with a view to reducing travel costs and banking charges. However, the Advisory Committee notes that an amount of $40,600 has been included in the cost estimates for the period from 14 July 1995 to 30 June 1996

to cover the cost of travel/overnight accommodations for Mission staff for official travel purposes, including banking; an amount of $87,000 has been included in the estimates for bank charges at 1.5 per cent at $7,500 per month to cover monthly transfers of $500,000 (see annex VI, paras. 16 and 73).

18. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 85 of annex VI to the Secretary-General's report that the estimate for public information programmes for the 11.6-month period amounts to $16,000 as compared with the 6.6-month period from 1 July 1994 to 13 January 1995 during which no public information activities were undertaken but an amount of $126,000 had been estimated. Activities are proposed to be limited to the printing and distribution of leaflets and bulletins.

19. Taking into account its comments and observations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals in paragraph 85 of his report.